

ABSTRACT

A screening-type process for the quantitative determination of cocaine and other alkaloids which are present in a solid sample and a reagent for use in the process. The process includes the steps of providing a solid sample in a finely divided or powdered form; completely immersing the sample into a liquid reagent providing a constant concentration of hydroxyl groups; maintaining the sample immersed in the liquid at a temperature in a range from 10 to 250°C for a period of time in a range from a few seconds to 48 hours; and analyzing the liquid separated from the solid with a conventional kit for the determination of the said substances in urine. The reagent is a liquid that provides a constant concentration of hydroxyl groups in the range of from 0.04 to 0.33 M and comprises 0.2 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ with the addition of 5 ml of 25% NH_4OH for each liter thereof.